could preach much better doctrine, and at the ſame time ſtudy leſs about it (if it is poſſible) than he does; but old father *Paul* has forbidden women to preach you know, and ſo I muſt hold my tongue.

But pray, good Sir, what is it that has made *you* ſo very *religious*, all of a ſudden? You could, ſome little time ago, be as merry, facetious, and agreeable as any gentleman in the whole county, but now the caſe is greatly altered, and I do verily believe, you can no more account for the mighty change, than Miſs P—— could for that of her lover's mind a few months ſince.——However you may expect, with all your

your ſanctity, I ſhall ſend you a card very ſoon to make one at a game at *quadrille*, and refuſe me at your peril.

I am, good Sir,

Yours,

Sept. 8th. MARIA FLIRT.

P. S. Sir WM. PIQUET's lady is to be of the party, therefore I muſt deſire we may have no demure looks, ſanctified ſpeeches, or a word about RELIGION.

BOB SHORT *The Country 'Squire* LONDON, 1781 HASKOLL COLLECTION, THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY Octavo